

## 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Cluj, Romania, 23 – 24 August 2008

### Report on Autecological Studies for Priority Species

Convenor: Stéphane Aulagnier



In accordance with Resolution 4.12, the current work being carried out on autecological studies of the Priority List of species (*Rhinolophus euryale*, *Myotis capaccinii* and *Miniopterus schreibersii*) should be updated by the Advisory Committee and should be made public.

#### **1. Questionnaire on roost choice**

As part of this task, on the request of the Advisory Committee, a questionnaire on roost choice by the three species has been prepared by the Intersessional Working Group. This questionnaire intends to fulfil one research priorities: "investigating the microclimate of roosts (temperature, humidity) along the seasons in order to identify bat choices" (Doc. EUROBATS.AC11.17).

Parties and range states were requested to answer this questionnaire by giving the number of known roosts for each category of the main topics in the three different "bat" seasons (summer, winter and spring - autumn). The deadline was 15 April 2008.

On the 28 expected answers, the EUROBATS Secretariat received contributions from only 12 countries (table 1). Moreover some of these answers are qualitative (Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina), or do not account for all the sites (are there no transient roosts in Romania?) or the whole country (France, Greece and probably Italy). As an example a comparison between French roosts surveyed in 2004 and the roosts described in the answers to the questionnaire is provided in table 1.

On this basis it seems still useless to analyse the answers, and we do expect a real effort to obtain data that could provide valuable information over the European range of the three species. We warmly thank the colleagues who already sent information and urge focal points of the other countries to fulfil the questionnaire by the next weeks.

Table 1: Number of roosts per country used by the three species of the Eurobats Priority list according to the answers to the questionnaire of the Intersessional Working Group (- : absence of the species, + : qualitative data, \* : number of known roosts).

	<i>Rhinolophus euryale</i>			<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>			<i>Myotis capaccinii</i>		
	N	H	T	N	H	T	N	H	T
Albania									
Armenia							-	-	-
Austria	-	-	-				-	-	-
Azerbaijan						+	-	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	+			+					
Bulgaria									
Croatia	13	7	0	18	5	0	11	4	0
Cyprus									
France	18	29	32	24	30	48			
France *	53	111	-	52	55	-	13	79	-
Georgia	6	2		2	3		-	-	-
Gibraltar	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Greece				11	2	10	1	0	1
Hungary	3	3	11	6	4	8	-	-	-
Italy	8	5	5	22	15	24	13	2	12
Macedonia									
Malta	-	-	-				-	-	-
Portugal	3	11	11	12	16	31	-	-	-
Romania	9	9		48	48		7	7	
Russia	1	1	0	2	8	8	-	-	-
San Marino							-	-	-
Serbia & Montenegro									
Slovakia	5	2	1	1	2	1	-	-	-
Slovenia	4	2	0	3	3	1	1	3	0
Spain									
Switzerland	-	-	-				-	-	-
Turkey									
Ukraine				-	-	-	-	-	-

## 2. References of papers and reports dealing with autecological studies

Parties and range states were also reminded to send to Stéphane Aulagnier (convenor of the IWG) references of all papers and reports dealing with foraging areas (using radiotelemetry or other suitable techniques) and diet (faecal analyses), as well as studies of population structure, including metapopulation structuring (using genetic analyses, morphometrics or echolocation calls) and dispersal (flying paths when commuting from the roost to the foraging areas and when moving between seasonal roosts).

Some relevant information was received from Greece, Italy, Slovenia and Spain, however the main issue came from France. As part of the Life programme on the "conservation of three cave-dwelling bats in southern France", animated by Mélanie Némoz, a 104p booklet on the conservation of roosts and foraging areas of the species of the Priority List was published by the French Mammal Society (Société Française pour l'Etude et la Protection des Mammifères). After a summary of our current knowledge on the biology and ecology of *Rhinolophus euryale*, *Myotis capaccinii* and *Miniopterus schreibersii*, some general advice on roost protection are provided. As these roosts are underground sites, most information was published in Eurobats Publication Series N°2. The third part, which is also the longest and the most innovating, gives with the main results of the study of foraging habitats of six colonies as well as guidelines for bat-friendly landscape management at two major scales (main dispersal area, home range of the colony). The main habitats to conserve are woodlands and hedgerows for *R. euryale*, still water of good quality and riparian woodlands for *M. capaccinii*, and hedgerows and partly traditional orchards for *M. schreibersii*. With additional data from other European countries, e.g. results from Spanish, Italian, Croatian and Greek studies, to take into account differences in bat behaviour across their range, this part could be the basis of a new Eurobats publication.